



Mid-Region Council of Governments of New Mexico

NEWS RELEASE

Date: November 25, 2003

FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE FOR MAJOR METRO AREA TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

MRCOG Says Federal Dollars Now Available for 2025 MTP

The Mid-Region Council of Governments is pleased to announce that projects included in the 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Urban Area are now able to access the Federal funds programmed for them in this fiscal year.

The Federal Highway Administration has approved the air quality analysis for the 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the 2004-2009 Transportation improvement Program. As a result, work on projects such as the Second Street/Montano intersection improvements and the San Antonio Park and Ride can continue. These and other projects can now use the Federal transportation dollars that have been set aside for them.

The 2025 MTP evaluated what the transportation system is like now, examined where and how we're likely to grow as an area, and determined what our transportation system should look like in the year 2025. As the metropolitan planning organization for the area, the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) is responsible for developing a new Plan every three years. Some of the major projects included in this latest plan call for an additional 133 miles in bicycle lanes, construction of the I-40/Coors interchange, and reconstruction of much of Interstates 25 and 40.

"This is an exciting time for us", says Lawrence Rael, MRCOG Executive Director. "We are pleased that the Federal Highway Administration has approved the MTP and that the Plan's projects can move forward in a timely manner. Our citizens are really going to see a tremendous benefit in their everyday transportation", adds Rael.

Community and business groups are encouraged to contact the MRCOG and request a copy of the Plan. Copies are also available at local library branches.

For further information contact MRCOG at 247-1750 or by visiting our offices at 317 Commercial NE, Suite 104, Albuquerque, NM.

Contacts: Lawrence Rael, Executive Director, MRCOG

Chris Blewett, Director of Transportation and Planning, cblewett@mrcog-nm.gov

Telephone: 505-247-1750

